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# The Tomato

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### *The Tomato*

I never liked him,  
nobody did on our block.  
He was spiteful, mean, they said.  
I heard he stole kids' bikes  
around Christmas and sold  
them to other kids. One  
man's wife said she

caught him peeping in  
her window. He lived alone,  
like me. One day he stopped  
me on the street, said  
it was sure hot, wasn't it, sure  
wished it would rain, and  
handed me a tiny tomato

from his overalls. I  
put it in my pocket and  
carried it home, ate it  
with my supper. It was small,  
slightly green but tasted  
good. Tonight as I look out  
my window across the yard

I think of the tomato.  
The light in his kitchen  
glows back at me. He is standing  
at the sink. I think of his  
hands cradling the shiny skin,  
the way he looked down when  
he handed it to me.